

Ref. Pamphlets
F.O.
Carnegie Hero
Fund Commission



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Annual Report

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The Carnegie Hero Fund

Established April 15, 1904 by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada.

Recognition in all acts considered worthy by the Commission consists of a medal. It may also include, in acts in which disabling injuries are sustained by the rescuer, a supplemental continuing grant; in acts in which the rescuer loses his life, financial assistance for the widow and children; and in acts in which no disablement is sustained, grants for education or other worthy purposes in the lives of the rescuers.

Recommendations for awards may be made by an individual having knowledge of such outstanding acts of bravery, and should be sent directly to the Commission. Awards are open to all citizens and visitors of the two countries under regulations presented in detail on subsequent pages of this report.

Each recommended act is investigated as to fact and degree of risk involved and is evaluated by the Commission on the basis of results of the investigation.

Please address inquiries to:

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
1932 Oliver Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
Telephone: 412-281-1302

I do not expect to stimulate or create heroism by this fund, knowing well that heroic action is impulsive; but I do believe that, if the hero is injured in his bold attempt to serve or save his fellows, he and those dependent upon him should not suffer pecuniarily.

— Andrew Carnegie

The Carnegie Medal



Reverse side of Carnegie Medal (actual size)

The Carnegie Medal is awarded to one who, at the risk of his own life, saves or attempts to save the life of a fellow man.

Mr. Carnegie's embossed profile dominates the front of the medal, as seen on the cover. On the reverse side (above) in low relief are shown the geographical outlines of the United States and Canada, the countries to which the Fund applies. In higher relief the seals of these countries are shown, with United States below the inscription plate, and Canada and Newfoundland at the top left and right of it, respectively.

Relief work surrounding the inscription plate reveals a sprig of laurel underneath and sprigs of ivy, oak, and thistle at the top. Laurel typifies glory; ivy, friendship; oak, strength; and thistle, persistency. Encircling the relief work is a quotation from the New Testament (John XV, 13): *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

Medals of bronze, silver, and gold are awarded.

Requirements for a Carnegie Medal

There must be conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked his own life to an extraordinary degree in saving or attempting to save the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificed himself in an heroic manner for the benefit of others;

And the act of rescue must be one in which no direct family relationship or other full measure of responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued;

And the heroic act must have been performed in the United States, Canada or the waters thereof and must be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the date of the act.

Awards

A medal is presented to the person performing the act or, in case of death, to the widow, widower, or the next of kin.

When a rescuer loses his life in performance of an act, contributions may be made toward livelihood of the widow until she remarries; and contributions may also be made toward the support and education of the deceased rescuer's children.

If the rescuer is disabled in the performance of the act, periodic contributions may be made to his livelihood.

If the rescuer be uninjured, a monetary grant may nevertheless be made, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

The benefits to be paid and the manner of payment are determined by the Commission after consideration of the circumstances of each awardee. Continuing benefits are paid only if there is clear need for such assistance and only if such benefits are soberly and properly used and the recipients remain respectable members of their communities.

Persons *Not* Eligible for Awards

Persons whose duties in following their regular vocations (such as policemen, firemen, lifeguards, etc.) require them to perform such acts, unless the rescues involve actions for which they have had neither training nor experience.

Members of the Armed Services.

Children considered by the Commission to be too young to comprehend the risks involved.

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

Deed Of Trust

To the Hero Fund Commission:

GENTLEMEN: — We live in an heroic age. Not seldom are we thrilled by deeds of heroism where men or women are injured or lose their lives in attempting to preserve or rescue their fellows; such the heroes of civilization. The heroes of barbarism maimed or killed theirs.

I have long felt that the heroes and those dependent upon them should be freed from pecuniary cares resulting from their heroism, and, as a fund for this purpose, I have transferred to the Commission five million dollars of First Collateral Five Per Cent Bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, the proceeds to be used as follows:

FIRST. To place those following peaceful vocations, who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life, in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before, until again able to work. In case of death, the widow and children, or other dependents, to be provided for until she remarries, and the children until they reach a self-supporting age. For exceptional children exceptional grants may be made for exceptional education. Grants of sums of money may also be made to heroes or heroines as the Commission thinks advisable — each case to be judged on its merits.

SECOND. No grant is to be continued unless it be soberly and properly used, and the recipients remain respectable, well-behaved members of the community, but the heroes and heroines are to be given a fair trial, no matter what their antecedents. Heroes deserve pardon and a fresh start.

THIRD. A medal shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent. The medal shall be given for the heroic act, even if the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

FOURTH. Many cities provide pensions for policemen, firemen, teachers, and others, and some may give rewards for acts of heroism. All these and other facts the Commission

will take into account and act accordingly in making grants. Nothing could be further from my intention than to deaden or interfere with these most creditable provisions, doubly precious as showing public and municipal appreciation of faithful and heroic service. I ask from the Commission most careful guard against this danger. The medal can, of course, be offered in such cases. Whether something more can not judiciously be done, at the request of, or with the approval of, the city authorities, the Commission shall determine. I hope there can be.

FIFTH. The claims upon the Fund for some years can not exhaust it. After years, however, pensioners will become numerous. Should the Commission find, after allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured. The action taken in the recent Harwick Mine accident, where Heroes Taylor and Lyle lost their lives, is an illustration. The community first raised a fund of forty thousand dollars, which was duplicated by me after waiting until the generosity of the community had full scope. Here again the Commission should be exceedingly careful, as in this case, not to deaden, but to stimulate employers or communities to do their part, for such action benefits givers themselves as well as recipients.

SIXTH. It seems probable that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of Britain, Germany, and other European States, and required to provide against accidents to employees. Therefore, the Commission, by a two-thirds vote, may devote any surplus that accrues beyond providing for heroes and their dependents (which provision must never be abandoned) to such other modes of benefiting those in want, chiefly caused through no fault of their own (such as drunkenness, laziness, crimes, etc.) but through exceptional circumstances, in such manner and to such extent as the Commission thinks advisable and likely to do more good than if such sums were given to those injured by accident, where the latter may be suitably provided for by law, or otherwise.

SEVENTH. The field embraced by the Fund is the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof. The sea is the scene of many heroic acts. No action is more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employees are remarkable for heroism.

All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life, the Fund applies.

EIGHTH. No personal liability will attach to members for any act of the Commission. The Commission has power to fill vacancies.

NINTH. The Commission has full power to sell, invest, or re-invest all funds; to employ all officials, including Secretary, traveling agents to visit and oversee beneficiaries, etc., and to fix their compensation. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed all expenses incurred, including traveling expenses attending meetings. The President shall be granted such honoraria as the Commission thinks proper and as he can be prevailed upon to accept.

TENTH. An annual report, including a detailed statement of sums and medals granted and the reasons therefore, shall be made each year and published in at least one newspaper in the principal cities of the countries embraced by the Fund. A finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Pittsburgh.

(Signed) ANDREW CARNEGIE.

WITNESS:

LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE.

New York, March 12th, 1904

Heroic Acts Recognized During 1977

Bronze Medal awarded to Claude Albritton, who saved Christopher A. Lee from suffocation, Mobile, Ala., January 20, 1976. Fire broke out in one end of a house trailer in which Christopher, aged 18 months, was asleep in one of the middle bedrooms. Among those attracted was Albritton, aged 42, aircraft engine assembler. Flames were rising above the trailer as Albritton climbed into Christopher's room via the window, through which heavy smoke was issuing. Landing on the bed, Albritton noted that flames burned on the opposite wall. He probed the bed but failed to find Christopher. After climbing outside briefly, Albritton probed further and found Christopher unconscious under the bed. Albritton thrust the boy through the window to his mother and then climbed out. Christopher was revived. 6262

Bronze Medal awarded to Scott Baer, who rescued Bernard N. Rossi from electric shock, Milan, Ill., June 24, 1977. Rossi, aged 62, was steadying some cast-iron pipe suspended from a crane on a truck moving slowly down a dirt lane in a forest preserve. When the truck's boom touched an overhead power line and the vehicle stopped, Rossi was frozen to the charged metal in a standing position, the crane still in contact with the line. Scott, aged 16, high-school student, stepped to behind Rossi and extended his arms around him without touching him. Scott felt an electric shock as, in one movement, he clasped his hands together and jerked Rossi free of the charged metal. Rossi required hospitalization for electrical burns. 6288

Bronze Medal awarded to David Robert Bash, who saved Keith Woyach from suffocation, Milwaukee, Wisc., September 23, 1976. Keith, aged 3, was in a rear bedroom of a ground-floor apartment when fire broke out in the living room, creating much dense smoke. Among those attracted was Bash, aged 21, restaurant cook. Bash climbed through a window into the bedroom, which was filled with smoke. Heat was intense. Groping in the smoke, Bash located Keith, who was unconscious, and took him to the window. After handing Keith to persons outside, Bash lost consciousness from smoke he had inhaled, and he collapsed over the window sill. Persons outside pulled Bash through the window. Bash and Keith were removed to a hospital and revived. 6263

Bronze Medal awarded to Lawrence Ervin Berte, who died after helping to save Norman J. Kahlhaas from drowning, Livermore, Iowa, October 10, 1976. While fording a stream on horseback, Kahlhaas, aged 20, a non-swimmer, got into deep water and was thrown. Berte, aged 19, farmer, who was following, jumped off his mount and swam to Kahlhaas, who grasped him and caused him to be submerged briefly several times near the floundering horse. A 17-year-old girl swam to them and assisted Berte in supporting Kahlhaas while others at the scene were forming a human chain to reach them. By means of the chain, Kahlhaas was pulled to the bank with the girl following. It then was discovered that Berte had sunk and drowned. 6275

Bronze Medal awarded to Darryl Bosetti, who died attempting to save Ivan Salinger from drowning, Welland, Ont., February 14, 1976. While walking on ice covering the Welland River, Ivan, aged 11, broke through and fell into deep water, where he clung to the edge of the hole and called for help. Darryl, aged 12, schoolboy, walked on the ice to the hole and took hold of Ivan by one arm. The ice gave way under Darryl, who also fell into the water. Both boys drowned. 6264

Bronze Medal awarded to Michael A. Bucheit, who helped to save Patrick J. Toomey from drowning, New Alexandria, Pa., January 8, 1976. Toomey, aged 30, was walking

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on an ice-covered lake when he broke through 120 feet from the bank and, unable to get out, shouted for help. A laboratory assistant heard Toomey's calls and notified Bucheit, aged 31, state park superintendent, who took three life buoys to the lake. Bucheit and the laboratory assistant walked halfway to Toomey, threw him a buoy, and began pulling on the attached line. The ice gave way under the two men. Bucheit got out, supported the laboratory assistant until a youth had thrown him a buoy, and then returned to the bank. By means of the two buoys, Bucheit and the youth pulled Toomey and the laboratory assistant in tandem to the bank. 6276

Bronze Medal awarded to Terence G. Budreo, who saved Arnold P. Ross from drowning, Green Lake, Sask., May 11, 1975. Arnold, aged 12, fell from a dam into a boil of water in the Cowan River. Budreo, aged 35, forester, removed his boots and jumped into the boil. With effort, he towed Arnold out of the turbulent water and into a calm area opposite another section of the dam. By the time he had swum with Arnold to a wall projecting from the dam, Budreo was weak from his efforts in the cold water. Arnold and Budreo were removed from the water by persons on the wall. 6240

Bronze Medal awarded to Thomas Earl Bunton, who died attempting to save James E. Simmons from drowning, Indianapolis, Ind., August 20, 1976. While in a wet well 29 feet deep, Simmons, aged 38, collapsed and fell into sewage about three feet deep. Bunton, aged 27, laborer, descended into the well via a ladder and aided Simmons to his feet. A cable with a hook at the end was lowered; and Simmons stood on the hook and held to the cable, which others began raising from the well as Bunton followed via the ladder. Simmons collapsed again, falling against Bunton. Both fell into the sewage and were motionless. Firemen with special equipment entered the well and removed Simmons and Bunton. Both were pronounced dead of drowning. 6278

Bronze Medal awarded to Lonnie Burton, who died attempting to save Robert R. Dimpter from suffocation, Philadelphia, Pa., June 29, 1976. While working at a sewer manhole, Dimpter, aged 20, was overcome and then floated facedown in sewage about eight feet deep three feet below the manhole opening. Burton, aged 26, truck driver, was attracted and entered the manhole. Burton lost consciousness and also floated facedown in the sewage. Firemen removed Dimpter and Burton, who were dead. 6250

Bronze Medal awarded to Raymond John Fahlen, Sr., who helped to save Bradley T. VanDamme from burning, Fulton, Ill., October 10, 1975. In a one-car accident at night, VanDamme, aged 18, unconscious from injuries received, was in the right front seat of a station wagon on which flames burned across the rear and along the passenger side. Fahlen, aged 34, construction laborer, and another man ran to the vehicle, where the driver's door had been torn off. Flames had spread into the front seat area. Kneeling on the seat, Fahlen and the other man with some difficulty freed VanDamme, who was afire, and removed him from the vehicle, which soon afterward was engulfed in flames. VanDamme was hospitalized for injuries and extensive burns. He recovered. 6241

Bronze Medal awarded to Gail Flynn, who saved Laurence M. Riggs, Loretta L. Eriks, and Lylani G. Thornington from drowning, Youbou, B.C., March 4, 1976. Mrs. Flynn, aged 27, saw Laurence and Loretta, each aged 2, in a hole in ice beside a diving platform in Kissinger Lake. Walking 50 feet across the ice to the platform, Mrs. Flynn lifted the two children from the water. She then noticed Lylani, aged 3, floating inert under the ice 15 feet from the platform. Mrs. Flynn entered the deep water but was able to break the ice only a few feet toward Lylani. She then swam under the ice,

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towed Lylani back to the open water, and revived her. After handing Lylani to a man who had arrived at the platform, Mrs. Flynn climbed out of the water. She and the man took the children to the bank.

6279

Bronze Medal awarded to Gary L. Fulton, who died attempting to rescue David H. Crawford from suffocation, Columbus, Ohio, June 30, 1975. In answer to a fire department call for assistance, Crawford, aged 30, entered a drainage pit at a processing plant to try to remove unconscious workmen and was overcome, falling facedown in fluids from animal matter used at the plant. Fulton, aged 27, baking plant worker, immediately descended a stairway into the pit, which contained noxious fumes. He tried to lift Crawford but collapsed on top of him. Rescue personnel removed Fulton, Crawford, and the plant workmen, but none survived.

6251

Bronze Medal awarded to James W. Gosen, Jr., who helped to save Joey T. Fevez from drowning, Longlac, Ont., May 18, 1974. Joey, aged 10, fell into Long Lake and drifted with the current. Gosen, aged 31, engineering service supervisor, removed his boots and jacket and entered the water, in which ice was forming. He swam to Joey and towed him to a log boom 150 feet from the bank. After boosting Joey onto a log, Gosen was unable to do as much for himself. He held to a log and was much affected by the cold water by the time two men arrived in a boat. Because of Gosen's weight, the men draped him over the stern of the boat. Taking Joey aboard, they proceeded to the bank. Joey and Gosen recovered from effects of the cold water.

6243

Bronze Medal awarded to Carlos W. Hancher, who rescued Leonard L. Sims from electric shock, Gaysport, Ohio, September 11, 1975. While attempting to make an adjustment at an electrical junction box, Sims, aged 57, received an electrical charge that rendered him unconscious and frozen in contact with a high-voltage line. Hancher, aged 51, coal company shovel operator, removed his leather belt, looped it around Sims' ankle, and jerked him free of the electrical contact. Sims recovered after hospitalization for severe electrical burns.

6252

Bronze Medal awarded to Brian G. Harris, who helped to rescue Jacoba Floris from an attacking bear, Haines Junction, Yukon, July 2, 1976. While Miss Floris, aged 22, was hiking in a wooded area, an adult black bear weighing about 325 pounds attacked her, mauling and biting her. Another young woman alerted persons at a nearby lodge. Among those who went to the scene was Harris, aged 29, general helper. After the bear had been diverted from Miss Floris, Harris kept himself between her and the animal as it circled. When the bear chased another man, who climbed a tree, Harris ran to the animal and struck it with a hatchet. He then continued to divert the bear as it again began circling near Miss Floris. A man arrived with a gun and killed the bear. Miss Floris required extensive hospitalization before recovering.

6280

Bronze Medal awarded to Edward P. Hendrix, who rescued Theresa Bentrovato from burning, Bronx, N.Y., July 14, 1976. In a highway accident, the automobile in which Miss Bentrovato, aged 25, was riding caught fire and flames filled the interior. Hendrix, aged 27, wrestling coach, ran to a door of the automobile, where flames were issuing from the top of the window opening. Reaching through the opening, Hendrix grasped Miss Bentrovato, who was afire, and pulled her from the vehicle. He then used his jacket to put out the flames on Miss Bentrovato, who was hospitalized for burns she had sustained.

6289

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Bronze Medal awarded to Billy Lee Herron, who saved Woody Begay from being struck by a train, Gallup, N.M., April 24, 1976. At night, Begay, aged about 52, was lying almost unconscious on a railroad track on which a train was approaching. When Begay did not move despite the train's whistle, Herron, aged 37, railroad brakeman, left the cab of the locomotive and descended steps at its front end as the train slowed due to emergency braking. Herron jumped from the locomotive onto the ground and then ran alongside the slowing train, outdistancing it. Reaching Begay, Herron grasped him with both hands and removed him from the path of the train, which stopped a short distance beyond them. 6265

Bronze Medal awarded to David G. Jackson, who attempted to save Jerry L. Duncan from a falling sheet of metal, Gordonsville, Tenn., March 31, 1977. While working in a vertical shaft still under construction, Duncan, aged 26, stepped into a partially-enclosed compartment just as a sheet of corrugated steel suspended 1,100 feet above him broke from its cable. Jackson, aged 19, driller, was at the same level in the shaft and heard the sheet of metal falling inside the compartment. He extended his arms and lunged toward Duncan to push him out of the way. Just as Jackson made contact with Duncan, the falling sheet struck both men. Duncan lost one arm. Both of Jackson's arms were severed, but they were surgically replaced. 6290

Bronze Medal awarded to Robert Alfred Kee, who saved Victoria Tenerowicz from being struck by a train, Park Ridge, Ill., November 19, 1975. Mrs. Tenerowicz, aged 84, was crossing a railroad track on which a train was approaching at about 50 miles an hour. Kee, aged 28, telephone company employee, ran onto the track to aid Mrs. Tenerowicz and reached her in the path of the oncoming train, on which emergency braking had been applied. Kee shoved Mrs. Tenerowicz from the train's path and followed immediately. Both fell on the ballast alongside the track as the train passed, narrowly missing them and stopping some distance beyond. 6253

Bronze Medal awarded to Randall E. Kitchen, who saved Jerry D. Bagwell from falling, Brevard, N.C., April 18, 1976. Jerry, aged 10, climbed onto a tree projecting from the face of a granite cliff about 100 feet above ground level. Kitchen, aged 50, Forest Service fire control officer, went to the edge of the cliff about five feet above the tree's trunk. With one arm and one leg around a rhododendron bush, Kitchen reached over the edge of the cliff, grasped Jerry by the wrist, and then held him suspended. Removing his arm from the bush, Kitchen held Jerry with both hands and began lifting him. Two men grasped Kitchen and drew him back from the edge of the cliff as he retained his hold on Jerry, pulling him to safety. 6266

Bronze Medal awarded to John L. Linscott, who died rescuing Robert G. Brumbaugh from an armed assailant, Fort Worth, Texas, May 22, 1976. A man armed with a pistol entered a market and shot Brumbaugh, aged 25, who fell to the floor, severely wounded. As the assailant pointed the pistol at Brumbaugh's head, Linscott, aged 35, grasped the gun and attempted to wrest it from the man. The pistol was discharged. Linscott was fatally wounded. Brumbaugh recovered. 6244

Bronze Medal awarded to David Jay Lucas, who saved Sarah L. Barrington from drowning, Missoula, Mont., June 2, 1976. Sarah, aged 2, fell into water 15 inches deep in an irrigation ditch, was carried into a covered culvert 46 feet long, and was held there by debris. David, aged 16, high-school student, crawled into the arched culvert, where the water was within four inches of the top and visibility was nil. Reaching an area where the culvert's top dipped to the surface of the water, David continued

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crawling with his head submerged until he again came to a section with a four-inch air space. At a point beyond the center of the culvert, David found Sarah, who was unconscious. Quickly freeing Sarah from the debris, David crawled with her the rest of the way to the end of the culvert. Sarah was revived. 6281

Bronze Medal awarded to Michael S. Lukon, who helped to save Patrick J. Toomey from drowning, New Alexandria, Pa., January 8, 1976. Toomey, aged 30, was walking on an ice-covered lake when he broke through 120 feet from the bank and, unable to get out, shouted for help. Lukon, aged 26, laboratory assistant, heard Toomey's calls and notified a state park superintendent, who took three life buoys to the lake. Lukon, who could not swim, and the superintendent walked halfway to Toomey, threw him a buoy, and began pulling on the attached line. The ice gave way under the two men. The superintendent got out, supported Lukon until a youth had thrown him a buoy, and then returned to the bank. By means of the two buoys, the superintendent and the youth pulled Toomey and Lukon in tandem to the bank. 6277

Bronze Medal awarded to John Albert Mahon, who saved Matthew Lavers from suffocation, Halifax, N.S., February 4, 1976. When fire broke out in a bedroom adjacent to that in which Matthew, aged 2, was sleeping, conditions prevented his mother from reaching him; so she ran from the apartment and called for help. Mahon, aged 38, process operator, climbed a ladder to the window of Matthew's room, which was filled with dense smoke. Entering the room, Mahon located Matthew, who was unconscious, and handed him through the window to persons outside. Affected by the smoke, Mahon then collapsed to the floor at the window. Firemen arrived and removed Mahon. Both Matthew and Mahon recovered from effects of smoke inhalation. 6245

Bronze Medal awarded to David M. McCauley, who helped to save a woman from drowning, Chicago, Ill., July 26, 1976. McCauley, aged 38, insurance company sales manager, saw a woman thrashing about in the Chicago River in deep water 50 feet from the bank. Removing some of his attire, McCauley dived into the water, swam to the woman, and towed her 30 feet toward the bank. By then he had become tired, and he called for assistance. A fireman entered the water, swam to McCauley, and took the woman from him. As McCauley swam to the bank, the fireman followed with the woman. 6254

Bronze Medal awarded to Billie Joe McCullough, who helped to save Bradley T. VanDamme from burning, Fulton, Ill., October 10, 1975. In a one-car accident at night, VanDamme, aged 18, unconscious from injuries received, was in the right front seat of a station wagon on which flames burned across the rear and along the passenger side. McCullough, aged 22, laborer, and another man ran to the vehicle, where the driver's door had been torn off. Flames had spread into the front seat area. Kneeling on the seat, McCullough and the other man with some difficulty freed VanDamme, who was afire, and removed him from the vehicle, which soon afterward was engulfed in flames. VanDamme was hospitalized for injuries and extensive burns. He recovered. 6242

Bronze Medal awarded to Bert W. Mertin, Jr., who saved Harold P. Reid from burning, River John, N.S., June 19, 1976. Reid, aged 21, was driving alone in a station wagon when it struck a utility pole, overturned, and caught fire. Flames filled most of the interior but had not yet reached Reid when Mertin, aged 56, fisherman, arrived and knelt beside the inverted station wagon. Mertin grasped Reid's hand at the opening of the broken windshield and pulled him from the vehicle, which shortly afterward was engulfed by an explosive spread of flames. 6291

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Bronze Medal awarded to George M. Mink, Jr., who attempted to save Kenneth D. Barnes, Jr. from drowning, Bissett, Man., June 7, 1974. When the boat in which he was riding capsized in a channel of rapid water between two lakes, Barnes, aged 46, was submerged and then rose to the surface inert. Mink, aged 41, drug salesman, piloted his motorboat to Barnes in the turbulent area. Unable to reach him from the boat, Mink jumped into the rapids area to aid Barnes. Both Mink and Barnes went under. Mink surfaced at the bank and held to a projecting rock until others arrived and aided him from the water. Barnes drowned. 6249

Bronze Medal awarded to Ernest H. Mizelle, who helped to save Frances A. and Dallas E. McKnight from burning, Newton Grove, N.C., November 25, 1976. In a highway accident, a pickup truck came to rest on its side and flames broke out behind the cab, inside which the McKnights, aged 48 and 51, were lying unconscious. Mizelle, aged 27, police officer, ran to the cab, where the windshield had popped out, and took hold of Mrs. McKnight by the arm as another man arrived. Putting one foot inside the cab, Mizelle obtained a better hold on Mrs. McKnight and, aided by the man, removed her from the truck. Mizelle then tried to pull McKnight out of the truck but found he was caught. Stepping fully into the cab, Mizelle freed McKnight and partially removed him. Others then assisted. Neither of the McKnights had sustained burns, but Mrs. McKnight died of injuries suffered in the accident. 6292

Bronze Medal awarded to Weldon C. Mosher, who saved Rebecca R. Blakeney from burning, Head of Jeddore, N.S., July 22, 1975. Rebecca, aged 10 months, was strapped in a baby carrier in the rear seat of an automobile which her mother backed against a concrete abutment. As gasoline from the punctured fuel tank ignited and flames rose five feet at the rear of the automobile, the mother got out and screamed for help. Mosher, aged 43, construction foreman, ran to the vehicle and got into the front seat as flames spread along the side of the automobile. He reached into the rear compartment, unbuckled a strap holding Rebecca, lifted her from the carrier, and emerged from the automobile, which very soon afterward was engulfed in flames. 6246

Bronze Medal awarded to Curtis Ray New, who saved Mary E. Hill from suffocation, Anderson, Ind., November 30, 1976. When fire broke out in the living room of their one-story dwelling, Mrs. Hill, aged 50, and her husband fled into the integral garage; but Mrs. Hill, who used a cane because of a hip operation, went back into the connecting kitchen and thence into a utility room, from where she then could be heard moaning. New, aged 50, toolmaker, crawled into the smoke-filled kitchen, passing an archway to the living room, which then was completely afire. After returning outside briefly for air, New crawled to the utility room despite dense smoke and intense heat. Coughing and feeling dizzy from smoke he had taken in, New then dragged Mrs. Hill through the kitchen to the garage. 6293

Bronze Medal awarded to Randall K. Oden, who helped to rescue Gail A. Peacock from burning, Phoenix, Ariz., September 15, 1976. At night, Mrs. Peacock, aged 32, was driving her station wagon when it skidded, overturned, and caught fire. Among those attracted was Oden, aged 29, narcotics agent. He and another agent ran to the inverted vehicle, on which flames covered the rear exterior and filled the inside rear compartment. Oden crawled through the window opening to his shoulders and tried in vain to remove Mrs. Peacock, who was only semiconscious. Just after Oden withdrew from the vehicle, there was an increase in the flames both inside and outside. The other agent then succeeded in moving Mrs. Peacock to the window. He and Oden pulled her out of the vehicle and dragged her away as the flames increased. Mrs. Peacock recovered after being hospitalized for burns she had suffered. 6267

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Bronze Medal awarded to R. Randolph Owens, who died helping to save Frederick J. Augustin from drowning, Grand Isle, La., April 17, 1976. Augustin, aged 22, lost his footing on a submerged sand bar and was swept into deep water in Barataria Bay, where the current prevented him from returning to the bar or reaching shore. Owens, aged 34, doctor of medicine, entered the water and swam to Augustin with one end of a fishing line held by a man on the bar and extending to a youth on shore. Holding to the line, Owens and Augustin tried without success to make their way toward shore. The fishing line then broke. Owens went under and drowned. Augustin was rescued by the Coast Guard. 6255

Bronze Medal awarded to William E. Paine, who rescued Walter L. Wilfong, Jr. from burning, Youngstown, Ohio, January 14, 1976. In a highway accident, Wilfong, aged 18, was trapped in the front seat of his automobile, on which fire broke out in the engine compartment and spread to the interior. Paine, aged 45, labor foreman, ran to the vehicle and tried in vain to open the door. Through a broken window, he then extended his upper torso into the automobile and took hold of Wilfong. With some difficulty, Paine pulled Wilfong out of the vehicle, which quickly filled with flames. Wilfong recovered from his injuries and burns. 6247

Bronze Medal awarded to Thomas R. Palek, who rescued Wayne D. Raum from burning, Woodlawn, Md., October 20, 1976. In an automobile accident at night, Raum, aged 22, was severely injured and thrown into the rear-seat section of a two-door automobile when it struck a culvert, turned over onto its top, and caught fire at the front end. The flames were spreading inside the vehicle when Palek, aged 23, assembler, arrived and saw Raum in the rear compartment, his trousers afire. Extending his head and shoulders into the inverted automobile through the window opening, Palek grasped Raum and pulled him out. Palek then used his coat to put out the flames on Raum, who recovered after being hospitalized for burns and injuries. 6282

Bronze Medal awarded to Norma K. Pittman, who saved Eric B. Purdin from drowning, Beverly, Wash., September 15, 1974. When Eric, aged 11, attempted to swim to a submerged sand bar in the Columbia River, he played out and called for help. Mrs. Pittman, aged 36, telephone company senior clerk, left her position in wadable water on the bar and swam 60 feet to Eric, who was struggling to keep afloat in deep water. Eric grasped Mrs. Pittman and caused her to go under. She surfaced, calmed Eric, and then began towing him toward the sand bar, being submerged briefly a number of times along the way. Mrs. Pittman was very tired by the time she reached the bar with Eric. Both rested there before being aided to the bank. 6283

Bronze Medal awarded to Paul E. Reichenbaugh, who helped to rescue John A. Pinard, Jr. from a rock fall, Bronx, N.Y., May 23, 1975. Pinard, aged 49, and Reichenbaugh, aged 31, miners, were in an underground chamber when rock debris fell from beneath them into a vertical shaft leading to a tunnel. Pinard was carried with the rocks into the shaft and buried to his waist; but Reichenbaugh landed on a metal plug which had fallen across the top of the shaft, leaving only a small opening. Lowering himself through the opening, Reichenbaugh dug debris from around Pinard. The rocks were sinking toward the tunnel as Reichenbaugh secured Pinard's safety rope, which was attached to his belt, to the plug at the top of the shaft. While Reichenbaugh was holding to the plug, the rocks fell into the tunnel, leaving Pinard suspended by the rope. Another workman aided Reichenbaugh in climbing onto the plug; and both men then pulled Pinard out of the shaft to safety. 6269

HEROIC ACTS

Bronze Medal awarded to Charles F. Rhodes, Sr., who rescued Lena A. Keller from an attacking dog, Dallas, Texas, June 4, 1976. An adult male German shepherd dog knocked Mrs. Keller, aged 75, to the ground, grasped her elbow in its jaws, and began shaking its head. At his home across the street, Rhodes, aged 77, heard Mrs. Keller screaming and, because of his very poor eyesight, was told by his wife what was happening. As the dog continued its attack on Mrs. Keller, who still was screaming, Rhodes approached them carrying a tree limb about five feet long. The dog leaped at Rhodes, who struck the animal with the limb. The dog circled Rhodes and again leaped at him. Rhodes again struck the animal, which then ran away. Mrs. Keller was hospitalized for severe lacerations and back injuries. She recovered. 6270

Bronze Medal awarded to Huey W. Rich, who rescued Margaret D. Trigg from burning, Atlanta, Ga., October 23, 1976. In a house trailer, fire broke out in the living room next to a bedroom in which Margaret, aged 8, was in a bunk bed. Rich, aged 45, forced his way into the trailer, where smoke was dense and heat intense. Crawling to a couch at the opposite side of the living room from the spreading flames, Rich failed to find Margaret there. He then crawled to the bedroom and, despite the smoke and heat, continued to the bunk bed. After probing the bottom bunk, he got to his feet and found Margaret unconscious in the top bunk. Rich lifted her from the bunk, put out flames on her hair, and carried her to the outside, where he collapsed. Both Margaret and Rich recovered after treatment at a hospital. 6294

Bronze Medal awarded to James A. Rombokas, who helped to save Twilah M. West from drowning, Decatur, Ala., November 29, 1976. When her automobile plunged into Wheeler Lake and began to sink, Mrs. West, aged 25, was unable to get out of the vehicle. Rombokas, aged 29, sheet metalworker, entered the cold water and swam to the sedan, which was almost totally submerged. With some difficulty, Rombokas opened the door and pulled Mrs. West from the sinking vehicle. Another man arrived and helped to support Mrs. West as all three swam to the bank. 6256

Bronze Medal awarded to Joseph R. Sabot, who rescued Steven T. Tady following a rock fall, Plum, Pa., June 15, 1977. In an underground coal mine, a fall of slab rock covered a mining machine and trapped Tady, aged 27, in the operator's compartment. Sabot, aged 46, mine mechanic, crawled into a crevice in the rocks 10 feet from Tady and began digging a tunnel toward him. As he removed the rocks, Sabot placed shoring in the tunnel, which was about two feet wide and high. After extending the tunnel to the machine, Sabot backed out. Tady, who was uninjured, then crawled from under the rock fall by way of the tunnel. 6295

Bronze Medal awarded to Drew F. Seaman, who helped to save Steven D. DeMar, Rex D. McNeese, Jr., and James T. Hoogakker from drowning, Covert, Mich., August 21, 1975. DeMar, McNeese, and Hoogakker, each aged 19 and unable to swim, got into difficulty in Lake Michigan in water over their depth near shore. Seaman, aged 24, law clerk, entered the cold water, taking with him two life cushions. He swam to DeMar, gave him one cushion, and put the other under McNeese, who was unconscious. While Hoogakker drifted with a life preserver, Seaman tried to move DeMar and McNeese shoreward. An attorney threw a rope to Seaman, and by it aided all three to safety with the assistance of a writer. Seaman, with the aid of the rope, then brought Hoogakker to safety also. McNeese was revived. All recovered. 6284

Bronze Medal awarded to Davis Winfred Sellers, who rescued Mark D. McLendon from electric shock, Lucedale, Miss., March 29, 1976. At a high-school athletic field, Mark,

HEROIC ACTS

aged 16, had both hands on a steel chain-link fence and consequently received an electric shock when it accidentally became charged. Davis, aged 17, high-school student, leaped into the air and threw himself against Mark, freeing him from the fence. Mark recovered from electrical burns.

6257

Bronze Medal awarded to William J. Simpson, Jr., who helped to save Michael H. Silvis from drowning, East Brady, Pa., June 20, 1977. While attempting to swim across the Allegheny River, Michael, aged 18, found he could not make it and called for help from William, aged 14, high-school student, who was swimming ahead of him. William swam to Michael and gave him support as they drifted downstream about 200 feet from the bank; but Michael caused William to be submerged briefly a number of times. On other occasions when Michael went under, William brought him back to the surface. William tired and called for assistance from persons on the bank. A youth arrived in a rowboat and took Michael and William to safety.

6285

Bronze Medal awarded to Erik E. Spalin, who helped to save Kenneth Martin from drowning, New Rochelle, N.Y., April 19, 1976. While attempting to swim across a cove, Kenneth, aged 16, suffered cramps and called for help. Erik, aged 11, schoolboy, entered the cold water and swam 150 feet to Kenneth, who was being aided by a taxi driver. Erik also took hold of Kenneth, who submerged him briefly. Together, Erik and the taxi driver towed Kenneth, who had calmed, 100 feet to where they were met by a man who took Kenneth the rest of the way to the bank.

6272

Bronze Medal awarded to Lester P. Sweeney, who helped to save Steven A. Rivas from an impending rock fall, Blanding, Utah, September 24, 1974. In a remote area, Rivas, aged 23, was caught in a rock fall and pinned by a large boulder in a cave-like opening in the steep wall of a mesa. Among those who finally arrived to aid Rivas was Sweeney, aged 39, public lands area manager. Despite the threat of additional rock falls, Sweeney and other men worked carefully for nearly two hours in limited space, removing smaller rocks, administering oxygen to Rivas, and finally dislodging the confining boulder by means of a jack. Rivas recovered.

6258

Bronze Medal awarded to Doran Talt, who helped to save Kenneth Martin from drowning, New Rochelle, N.Y., April 19, 1976. While attempting to swim across a cove, Kenneth, aged 16, suffered cramps and called for help. Talt, aged 23, taxi driver, entered the cold water and swam 150 feet to Kenneth, who submerged him twice briefly. A boy arrived and aided Talt in towing Kenneth, who had calmed, 100 feet to where they were met by a man who took Kenneth the rest of the way to the bank.

6271

Bronze Medal awarded to Robert Thomas, who rescued Renee Vick and Brenda G. McIntosh from burning, Fort Worth, Texas, October 5, 1975. An automobile containing Miss Vick and Miss McIntosh, each aged 18, was involved in an accident which ruptured the fuel tank and caused fire at the vehicle's rear end and along its right side. Thomas, aged 52, electronics company shop hand, ran to the burning automobile and removed Miss Vick, who was in the left front seat. Extending his head and upper torso into the automobile, Thomas pulled Miss McIntosh, who was unconscious, to the left side of the seat and thence out of the vehicle, which soon after was totally afire. Miss McIntosh revived, and both young women recovered.

6260

Bronze Medal awarded to Otis E. Thrasher, who helped to rescue Gail A. Peacock from burning, Phoenix, Ariz., September 15, 1976. At night, Mrs. Peacock, aged 32, was

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driving her station wagon when it skidded, overturned, and caught fire. Among those attracted was Thrasher, aged 31, narcotics agent. He and another agent ran to the inverted vehicle, on which flames covered the rear exterior and filled the inside rear compartment. Just after the other agent had tried in vain to remove Mrs. Peacock, who was only semiconscious, there was an increase in the flames both inside and outside. Thrasher crawled into the station wagon to his shoulders and succeeded in moving Mrs. Peacock to the window. He and the other agent then pulled her out of the vehicle and dragged her away as the flames increased. Mrs. Peacock recovered after being hospitalized for burns she had suffered. 6268

Bronze Medal awarded to Andrew Torre, who rescued Rockie Croft from burning, Hamburg, N.Y., December 17, 1975. Torre, aged 41, horse trainer, learned that Rockie, aged 1, was in the basement of his home where gasoline had been spilled and had caught fire. Entering the basement through a ground-level window, Torre crawled about in the dense smoke until he located Rockie. After handing Rockie to persons outside the window, which was six feet above the floor, Torre tried to climb out but could not do so. Those outside then aided Torre through the window. Rockie recovered from minor burns he had sustained. 6261

Bronze Medal awarded to Vicente V. Valdez, who died attempting to rescue Juan M. Martinez from burning, Highgrove, Calif., November 24, 1976. Martinez, aged 37, was in the bathroom of his one-story frame dwelling when flames erupted there. A neighbor, Valdez, aged 27, farm laborer, was attracted and ran to the bathroom's outside door. Flames could be seen at the window as Valdez broke open the door and entered the bathroom. The wife of Martinez also entered. She located her husband, who followed her outside as the flames increased. Martinez was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to burns he had sustained. Firemen removed the body of Valdez, who had burned to death in the bathroom flames. 6273

Bronze Medal awarded to Charles Wertheimer, Jr., who rescued Michele and attempted to rescue Matthew J. Lightner from burning, Indiana, Pa., May 9, 1977. Michele, aged 5, and Matthew, aged 2, were in the rear seat of a two-door sedan when fire broke out and smoke filled the interior. Wertheimer, aged 40, salvage yard operator, ran to the automobile and removed Michele but was unable to see Matthew, who could be heard crying. Wertheimer twice crawled onto the front seat and probed the rear compartment, each time being forced out by the intense heat. On his third try for Matthew, Wertheimer's clothing caught fire. He withdrew and removed the burning garments but then was restrained from reentering the burning automobile. Firemen found the body of Matthew in the rear compartment. Michele had only been singed. Wertheimer required hospitalization for extensive burns he had sustained. 6286

Bronze Medal awarded to Frederick A. Wiess, who saved Richard W.M. Sutton from drowning, Bissett, Man., June 7, 1974. When the boat in which he was riding capsized in a channel of rapid water between two lakes, Sutton, aged 54, was briefly submerged and then clung to the overturned craft. Wiess, aged 41, steel mill shift supervisor, piloted his motorboat to Sutton in the turbulent area. With Sutton holding to the craft, Wiess piloted the boat through the rapids area to near the bank. A submerged boulder then damaged the boat; but a man who had waded into the water was able to grasp Sutton and aid him to safety. 6248

Bronze Medal awarded to Glynn E. Williams, Sr., who rescued Frederick J. Michaelis, Jr. from burning, Shreveport, La., November 7, 1976. When a violent explosion badly

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damaged his one-story dwelling and started numerous fires throughout the house, Michaelis, aged 56, was rendered unconscious in the burning kitchen. Among those attracted was Williams, aged 61, tire salesman, who ran to the rear of the house, where the door had been blown off. Seeing Michaelis inside, Williams ran through an enclosed patio that was afire and reached the kitchen, the walls of which had buckled. As flames burned overhead, Williams dragged Michaelis through the patio and thence outside. Michaelis was hospitalized, but he died. Williams recovered from burns he had sustained.

6274

Bronze Medal awarded to Steven A. Wing, who helped to save Steven A. Rivas from an impending rock fall, Blanding, Utah, September 24, 1974. In a remote area, Rivas, aged 23, was caught in a rock fall and pinned by a large boulder in a cave-like opening in the steep wall of a mesa. Among those who finally arrived to aid Rivas was Wing, aged 23, chief ranger. Despite the threat of additional rock falls, Wing and other men worked carefully for nearly two hours in limited space, removing smaller rocks, administering oxygen to Rivas, and finally dislodging the confining boulder by means of a jack. Rivas recovered.

6259

Bronze Medal awarded to James Lee Wood, who helped to save James E. Pauwels from drowning, South Milwaukee, Wisc., January 30, 1977. When Pauwels, aged 16, a non-swimmer, was carried away from shore on an ice floe in Lake Michigan, Wood, aged 21, roofer, attempted in vain to cast a fishing line to the youth, who drifted farther away. In a seven-foot molded plastic dinghy, Wood, who could not swim, rowed in pursuit of Pauwels, making his way with difficulty through the ice in the water. Wood reached Pauwels about a mile and a half from shore. With Pauwels aboard the dinghy, Wood tried without success to row shoreward against the surface current. Wood and Pauwels later were taken to shore by a helicopter.

6287

Statistics of Cases Considered Since 1904

	1977	To Date
Gold Medals Awarded	0	19
Silver Medals Awarded	0	615
Bronze Medals Awarded	<u>56</u>	<u>5,661</u>
	56	6,295

To date the Commission has considered 56,449 rescue acts.

Especially we honor those who gave their lives in attempting to save others. During 1977 eight such awards were granted, bringing the total to date to 1,286.

Monetary Grants

	1977	To Date
For continuing support of widows, dependents, and disabled heroes	\$140,245	\$ 8,942,847
For education of heroes and children of deceased heroes	5,875	1,042,869
To all other heroes	<u>42,822</u>	<u>3,160,295</u>
	\$188,942	\$13,146,011

Two special awards, gold medals mounted on bronze tablets, were made in honor of heroes of the Steamship Titanic, lost off the banks of Newfoundland on April 15, 1912, and of the mine disaster at Springhill, Nova Scotia, on October 23, 1958.

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